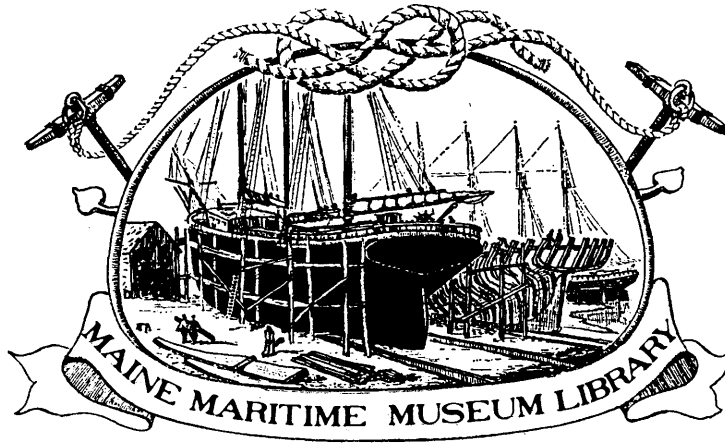


Maine Maritime Museum Library

243 Washington Street
Bath, Maine 04530-1638
(207) 443-1316, ext. 328, 336



**Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS-3**

Carter Family and Otis Family Papers, 1806-1900

by
Nathan R. Lipfert

August 2005

Shelf feet: 0.25
Number of boxes: 1

COPYRIGHT RESTRICTION

The material described herein is the physical property of the Maine Maritime Museum Library. **Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors of the various items, or to their legal representatives, or to Maine Maritime Museum.** For further information, consult the library staff.

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials.

Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship or research." If a user later uses a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if fulfillment of the order is judged in violation of copyright law.

It is the user's responsibility to understand the copyright law concerning the use of the historical documents contained in this library.

Copyright (C) 2005 by the Maine Maritime Museum.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Maine Maritime Museum Library.

Abstract

Carter Family

Carter Family and Otis Family Papers, 1806-1900

1/2 Box (1/4 shelf feet)

The Carters were ship captains of Woolwich (ME); Christopher Otis was a cobbler and Woolwich town clerk for 31 years.

These papers document the careers of three generations of ship captains from the Carter and Otis families. The collection is comprised of business and financial papers relating to seafaring and business interests of Captain Charles Carter (1778-1845), Captain Charles William Carter (1808-1878), Captain Christopher O. Carter (1836-1915), Captain Edward L. Carter (1834-1878), and Christopher T. Otis (1800-1877). The collection also includes papers from the First Congregational and Baptist Churches of Woolwich (ME) as well as Woolwich town papers.

Gift of Edward P. Carter, 1971. G71.57.7.

Related material available at repository.

Finding aid in repository, folder level control.

Added Entries: Carter, Charles, *Captain* (1778-1845); Carter, Charles William, *Captain* (1808-1878); Carter, Edward L., *Captain* (1834-1878); Carter, Christopher O., *Captain* (1836-1915); Otis, Christopher T. (1800-1877); Woolwich (ME); Shipping; Carter Family; Otis Family; First Baptist Church--Woolwich (ME); First Congregational Church--Woolwich (ME).

Acquisition

These papers were first loaned (EL879), then given to Maine Maritime Museum by Edward P. Carter, grandson of Captain Edward L. Carter. The loan was made in 1966, and was transferred to a gift in 1971. These papers can be identified by the accession number G71.57.7.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

Physical Condition

Documents are fragile. Some are torn and faded. The ink has run on many of the early documents. The majority of documents are in good condition.

Historical Note

Captain Charles Carter (1778-1845) was born in Woolwich (ME). He was the master of many vessels including **Caroline** (Brig), **Susan** (Schooner), **John** (Schooner), and **Saphronia Dole** (Schooner). In 1804 Charles Carter married Lucy Curtis (1777-1861). They were the parents of Captain Charles William Carter, (1808-1878). Their daughter Sarah W. Carter (1805-1841) married Christopher Otis.

Captain Charles William Carter (1808-1878) was also a well known shipmaster. He was master of the vessels **Ganges** (Ship) and **Butler** (Schooner). He married Caroline Trott (1812-1840) and had two sons, Captains Edward L. (1834-1891) and Christopher O. Carter (1836-1915). By his second wife, Adeline A., Charles W. had another son named Charles William Carter II, who also became a captain.

Captain Edward L. Carter (1835-1891) went to sea at age fifteen and became the master of many vessels. He sailed for Houghton Brothers of Bath for thirty-six years. He took the **Parthia** (Ship) on her maiden voyage. He married Mehitable Otis in 1858. Mehitable traveled extensively with her husband on his voyages until his death in San Francisco in 1891. Vessels he commanded included **Caledonia** (Ship), **Armenia** (Ship), **Clara Ann** (Ship), **E.B. Sutton** (Ship), and **Columbia** (Ship).

Captain Christopher O. Carter (1836-1915), brother of Edward L., was born in Woolwich (ME) in 1836. He was also a Master Mariner. In 1862 he married Margaret Edgecomb of Woolwich (ME). They had four children. He was the principal owner (and the ship was built for his command) of the **E.B. Sutton** (Ship). He was master of vessels including **Monte Rosa** (Ship), **Whampoa** (Ship), and the **I. F. Chapman** (Ship).

Christopher T. Otis (1800-1877) was a cobbler and Town Clerk of Woolwich (ME) from 1832 to 1863, and was the Congregational Parish Clerk in 1847.. He married Sarah W. Carter (1805-1841) in 1827, and subsequently married Harriet ____.

Scope and Content

Series Description

Carter Family Papers

The Carter Family papers include papers of the Captains' Charles, Edward, and Christopher. The majority of the series is composed of invoices and receipts from shipping related expenses of the three different captains. The correspondence included is from business associates. There is a list of voyages made by Captain Christopher O. Carter.

The Otis Family series contains papers from Captain Christopher Otis. These papers include receipts and ship's papers. There is no correspondence of any kind included in this series.

The Woolwich Town series is comprised of two types of papers. The first type of document are documents relating to two churches in Woolwich, the First Baptist and the First Congregational. These papers all pertain to the workings of these two churches. The second type of papers included in this series are the government related documents. There are two land deeds included in this series.

The collection consists of shipping and financial papers of the Carter and Otis families. It also contains some papers from the town of Woolwich, ME. There are receipts, Bills of Lading, and instructions from employers. The collection contains no personal correspondence.

Series one contains the papers from three Carter's. The first set of papers belongs to Captain Charles Carter. These papers include numerous receipts and invoices for his shipping related business. There are Bills of Lading, records of accounts, and business correspondence to Captain Charles Carter. The series also contains a record of all the voyages made by Captain Christopher O. Carter. Papers belonging to Captain Edward L. Carter include receipts for shipping related expenses as well as a series of correspondence from Houghton Brothers to Captain Carter.

Series two contains the documents related to Christopher T. Otis. In this series are invoices, receipts, and business correspondence. There are also some papers pertaining to a leather making company that Otis seems to have owned. In the series there are also papers which relate to Otis' shipping interests. These papers include a duty bill, bill of lading, and a paper detailing the expenses and goods on board the **Clara Ann** (ship).

The third series in this collection is comprised of papers from the town of Woolwich, ME. These papers fall into two categories. There are papers which relate directly to the First Baptist and First Congregational Churches. These papers include church related correspondence, notices of intentions to leave the church by members, and papers that outline the business of the church at its next meeting. This series of papers includes papers pertaining to the town of Woolwich, outside of either church. These papers include deeds, land claims, and town boundary agreements.

Container List

Series I: Carter Family Papers

Box 1

- | | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Folder | 1 | Captain Charles Carter papers, shipping, 1806-1841 and undated |
| | 2 | Captain Charles Carter bills and receipts, personal, 1808-1837 |
| | 3 | Captain Charles W. Carter papers, 1841-1846 |
| | 4 | Captain Christopher O. Carter record of voyages, 1857-1900 |
| | 5 | Correspondence, Houghton Bros. to Capt. Edward L. Carter, 1882 |
| | 6 | Captain Edward L. Carter bills and receipts, 1862-1889 |
| | 7 | Parthia (ship) bills and receipts, Captain Edward L. Carter, 1891 |

Series II: Otis Family Papers

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| | 8 | Customs duty bill, Rome (ship), 1851 [prob. Capt. William M. Otis (1814-1913)] |
| | 9 | Christopher T. Otis misc. papers 1823-1877 |

Series III: Town of Woolwich Papers

- 10 Woolwich First Congregational Church records, 1820-1847, and undated
- 11 Woolwich Town records, 1814-1867

A. Added Entries

Armenia (ship)
Butler (schooner)
Caledonia (ship)
Caroline (brig)
Carter family
Carter, Charles, *Captain*
Carter, Charles William, *Captain*
Carter, Christopher O., *Captain*
Carter, Edward L., *Captain*
Carter, Mehitable
Clara Ann (ship)
Columbia (ship)
E.B. Sutton (ship)
First Baptist Church--Woolwich (ME)
First Congregational Church--Woolwich (ME)
Ganges (ship)
Hunter (schooner)
I.F. Chapman (ship)
Jane Parker (ship)
John (schooner)
North Star (ship)
Monte Rosa (ship)
Oscar (schooner)
Otis, Christopher T
Otis family
Otis, William M., *Captain*
Parthia (ship)
Pilot (schooner)
Rome (ship)
Saphronia Dole (schooner)
Shipping
Ship captains
Statira (schooner)
Susan (schooner)
Swan (schooner)
Thalatta (ship)
Whampoa (ship)
Woolwich (ME)